

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, the United States House of Representatives passed the 21<sup>st</sup> Century G.I. Bill, which was introduced in the House by Representatives Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (D-VA-03) and Harry Mitchell (D-AZ-02) and in the Senate by Senator Jim Webb (D-VA).

The bill was included in an amendment to H.R. 2642, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Military Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The amendment passed by a vote of 256 to 166 ( [Roll No. 330](#) ).

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century G.I. Bill is designed to offer the brave men and women who have served honorably since September 11, 2001 a level of educational benefits on par with those provided to veterans of the World War II era. The bill will cover the entire cost of a four year public college or university, while also providing a monthly housing stipend and money for books and supplies. The legislation will make military service more attractive as we work to rebuild our military. It will also give our troops returning home the tools they need to succeed after military service while strengthening our economy in the face of increasing global competition.

“Today marks a historic shift in how this nation treats our veterans,” said Rep. Scott. “The men and women, who have served multiple tours of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq, deserve an educational benefit that more accurately reflects their service in combat. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century G.I. Bill finally honors their sacrifices.”

(####)